

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/017793

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
Int.Cl⁷ A63F13/00, 5/04, 13/12

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
Int.Cl⁷ A63F13/00-13/12, 5/04, 9/00

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2005
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2005 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2005

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	Shukan Fami Tsu, 27 December, 2002 (27.12.02), No.17, No.52, whole No.732, pages 141 to 146	1-5
Y	JP 8-332282 A (Namco Ltd.), 17 December, 1996 (17.12.96), Full text; all drawings Par. Nos. [0037] to [0038], [0070] to [0071] (Family: none)	1-5 23-30
Y	JP 11-146936 A (Kabushiki Kaisha Iguru), 02 June, 1999 (02.06.99), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	1-5
Y	Dengekio, 01 November, 2002 (01.11.02), Vol.10, No.14, whole No.145, pages 44 to 45	5

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
26 May, 2005 (26.05.05)

Date of mailing of the international search report
14 June, 2005 (14.06.05)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

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Continuation of Box No.III of continuation of first sheet(2)

First group of inventions: claims 1-5
Second group of inventions: claims 6, 8-9
Third group of inventions: claim 7
Fourth group of inventions: claims 10-15
Fifth group of inventions: claims 16-17, 22
Sixth group of inventions: claims 18-20
Seventh group of inventions: claim 21
Eighth group of inventions: claims 23-30

There is no special technical feature common to the fist group of inventions, the second and the third group of inventions, the fourth group of inventions, the fifth to the seventh group of inventions and the eighth group of inventions.

The second group and the third group of inventions relate to a game device having a plurality of display areas and performing fluctuation display for changing display of display areas so that each of the virtual reels of a virtual reel group including a plurality of virtual reels where a plurality of symbols are arranged is rotated when the game is started and stop display for displaying a state in which one of the symbols is stopped in the display areas, wherein by using a selected virtual reel, the fluctuation display or the stop display of the symbols in the display areas is performed according to the extraction result using the extraction table.

However, a game device having games for rotating virtual reels and selectively executing the games is not novel as is disclosed in various documents. This known game device is included in the concept of the aforementioned common matter.

Accordingly, the second group of inventions has a special technical feature that a storage unit is provided for storing lottery tables for drawing lots of a symbol to be stop-displayed in the display areas each time game is played and data on the virtual reel corresponding to the election probability of each symbol in each of the lottery tables. The third group of inventions has a special technical feature that a table creation unit is provided for creating a lottery table corresponding to the virtual reels selected.

The fifth to the seventh group of inventions have a matter common to claim 16.

However, the game device for playing a game by using data obtained by inputting a medal and playing a special game (so-called double-up game) by using the data obtained by winning the game is a known technique and the invention of claim 16 has no special technical feature.

Consequently, the fifth group of inventions has a special technical feature relating to the second numeric data processing while playing the special game; and the sixth group of inventions has a special technical feature relating to the second numeric data processing upon completion of the special game; and the seventh group of inventions has a special technical feature relating to the execution condition of the special game.

Therefore, no special technical feature common to the aforementioned groups of inventions exists and the aforementioned groups of inventions do not satisfy the requirement of unity of invention.

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Box No. II

Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III

Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
(See extra sheet)

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Continuation of Box No.III of continuation of first sheet (2)

First group of inventions: claims 1-5
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Third group of inventions: claim 7
Fourth group of inventions: claims 10-15
Fifth group of inventions: claims 16-17, 22
Sixth group of inventions: claims 18-20
Seventh group of inventions: claim 21
Eighth group of inventions: claims 23-30

There is no special technical feature common to the fist group of inventions, the second and the third group of inventions, the fourth group of inventions, the fifth to the seventh group of inventions and the eighth group of inventions.

The second group and the third group of inventions relate to a game device having a plurality of display areas and performing fluctuation display for changing display of display areas so that each of the virtual reels of a virtual reel group including a plurality of virtual reels where a plurality of symbols are arranged is rotated when the game is started and stop display for displaying a state in which one of the symbols is stopped in the display areas, wherein by using a selected virtual reel, the fluctuation display or the stop display of the symbols in the display areas is performed according to the extraction result using the extraction table.

However, a game device having games for rotating virtual reels and selectively executing the games is not novel as is disclosed in various documents. This known game device is included in the concept of the aforementioned common matter.

Accordingly, the second group of inventions has a special technical feature that a storage unit is provided for storing lottery tables for drawing lots of a symbol to be stop-displayed in the display areas each time game is played and data on the virtual reel corresponding to the election probability of each symbol in each of the lottery tables. The third group of inventions has a special technical feature that a table creation unit is provided for creating a lottery table corresponding to the virtual reels selected.

The fifth to the seventh group of inventions have a matter common to claim 16.

However, the game device for playing a game by using data obtained by inputting a medal and playing a special game (so-called double-up game) by using the data obtained by winning the game is a known technique and the invention of claim 16 has no special technical feature.

Consequently, the fifth group of inventions has a special technical feature relating to the second numeric data processing while playing the special game; and the sixth group of inventions has a special technical feature relating to the second numeric data processing upon completion of the special game; and the seventh group of inventions has a special technical feature relating to the execution condition of the special game.

Therefore, no special technical feature common to the aforementioned groups of inventions exists and the aforementioned groups of inventions do not satisfy the requirement of unity of invention.